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Message Text

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71
ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-02 DODE-00 PRS-01 PM-03 NSCE-00

DRC-01 /055 W
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P R 051055Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4166
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3602

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PDEV PINT KS JA
SUBJECT: KIM TAE CHUNG CASE-ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS

1. SEPTEL REPORTS PRESS COMMENTS RE JUNE 4 AND 5 MEETINGS ON KIM TAE CHUNG CASE BETWEEN FONMIN KIM TONG CHO AND JAPANESE AMBASSADOR USHIROKU.

2. JAPANESE COUNSELOR MAEDA GAVE POL COUNS FOLLOWING READ OUT ON INITIAL JUNE 4 MEETING BETWEEN FONMIN AND USHIROKU. ACCORDING TO MAEDA, USHIROKU HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY GOJ TO APPROACH ROKG EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER KIM TAE CHUNG HEARING. (IT TOOK USHIROKU A DAY TO GET AN APPOINTMENT.)

3. ACCORDING TO MAEDA, USHIROKU MADE FOLLOWING POINTS IN HIS SESSION WITH KIM:

A. GOJ SURPRISED BY FACT ROKG PROCEEDED TO COURT HEARING OF KIM TAE CHUNG WITHOUT ANY PRIOR WARNING TO JAPANESE.

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B. IT GOJ VIEW THAT ANY ARREST OF KIM TAE CHUNG

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ON CRIMINAL CHARGES WOULD APPEAR TO BE VIOLATION OF
UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED AT TIME OF KIM'S RELEASE FROM
HOUSE ARREST AND POLITICAL RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM BETWEEN
TWO GOVERNMENTS, AND

C. GOJ HOPES IT WOULD BE INFORMED ABOUT ANY
FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO CHARGES AGAINST KIM.

4. MAEDA SAID KIM'S ANSWER WAS PREDICTABLE. KIM
SAID HE AWARE OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN HIS PREDECESSOR
AND USHIROKU. HOWEVER, ROKG HAD INDICATED ONLY THAT
KIM WOULD NOT BE TRIED FOR HIS ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN
AND US BEFORE HIS KIDNAPPING. KIM SAID CHARGE
BEING ADDRESSED IN COURT WERE LONG PENDING AND CLEARLY
DO NOT RELATE TO HIS ACTIVITIES ABROAD. CONSEQUENTLY,
NO UNDERSTANDINGS WERE VIOLATED. MAEDA SAID USHIROKU
TOLD KIM THAT HE FELT THAT "SPIRIT" OF UNDERSTANDINGS
CLEARLY HAD BEEN VIOLATED.

5. MAEDA SAID JAPANESE EMBASSY PARTICULARLY CONCERNED
ABOUT DANGER THAT KIM TAE CHUNG CASE, COUPLED WITH
COURT-MARTIAL OF TWO JAPANESE NATIONALS, WILL CREATE
FURTHER DIFFICULTIES IN ROKG-JAPAN REALATIONS. JAPANESE EMBOFF
LATER INDICATED TO US THAT JAPANESE HOPEFUL THAT ONE RESULT
OF FUROR OVER KIM TAE CHUNG CASE MIGHT BE ROKG
"LENIENCY" REGARDING EVENTUAL RELEASE OF TWO JAPANESE
NATIONALS.

6. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT AWARE SENIOR ROKG OFFICERS DID INDICATE TO
US AT TIME OF KIM'S RELEASE FROM HOUSE ARREST THAT
JAPANESE WERE TOLD HE WOULD NOT BE TRIED FOR PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES.
HOWEVER, JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS INDICATED TO US INFORMALLY
THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN "OVERSIGHT" IN UNDERSTANDINGS
REGARDING KIM WHICH ROKG HAS NOW SEIZED UPON.
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